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30 April 1946

## PLANNING DIRECTIVE NO. 26

SUBJECT: Proposal for the Establishment of a Central Photo Intelligence Agency

## 1. The Problem

25X1A9a a. A study, submitted by Captain Dudley P. Lee, Chief, Staff Service Photo Section, Army Map Service, was furnished the Central Planning Staff on 10 April by the Director of SSU in accordance with instructions of [REDACTED]. Subsequently, at the request of Mr. McCormack, Captain Lee furnished two additional copies to Admiral Souers under memorandum of 22 April 1946.

b. By memorandum for Admiral Souers, dated 17 April, subject: Photographic Intelligence File in the Department of State, Mr. McCormack discussed a large file of photographs and negatives inherited by the State Department from the former Research and Analysis Branch of the Office of Strategic Services. Mr. McCormack's memorandum contained the suggestion that the Director of Central Intelligence should have a study made to recommend:

- (1) Procedures for the coordination of the collection, processing, filing and servicing of photo-intelligence materials.
- (2) Whether or not a photo-technical laboratory should be established to improve and maintain high technical quality of photo-intelligence materials.
- (3) To which agency the Department of State's photo-intelligence file would be transferred.

c. Captain Lee's study was briefed by the Policy and Review Branch in an informal memorandum dated 23 April. That memorandum, plus memorandums from Colonel Quinn, Captain Lee and Mr. McCormack referred to above, are enclosed under the original hereof for file in the Support Branch.

d. Copies of Captain Lee's study are herewith distributed for file in the Support Branch, Intelligence Branch and Information Branch, respectively. Upon conclusion of the study prescribed below, these Branches will turn their copies over to the Policy and Review Branch to be placed in the reference file.

## 2. Planning Requirement

a. A committee is hereby formed to consist of:

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- (1) The Chief, Support Branch, chairman.
- (2) One member from the Intelligence Branch, to be designated by its Chief.
- (3) One member from the Information Branch, to be designated by its Chief.
- (4) Additional personnel from the Support Branch as directed by its Chief.

b. The committee will study the broad subject defined by paragraph 1 b (1) above, with particular reference to Captain Lee's study, and also study the specific subjects defined by 1 b (2) and 1 b (3). The committee will discuss the subject informally with appropriate individuals of the departments or agencies which have submitted suggestions in the matter.

c. The committee will submit recommendations to the Chief, Central Planning Staff, including a draft of appropriate CIG action.

3. Deadline

An informal progress report will be made on 17 May 1946.

FOR THE ACTING CHIEF, CENTRAL PLANNING STAFF:

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Acting Deputy Chief, Central Planning Staff

Enclosures: As listed in para. 1 g

Distribution:

For action:

Support Branch, w/enclosures  
Information, w/1 cy of Capt Lee's study  
Intelligence, w/1 cy of Capt Lee's study

For information:

Policy & Review, no enclosures  
Security, no enclosures  
Secretary, NIA, no enclosures  
Director of Central Services (Attn [REDACTED]), no enclosures  
✓ File - Central Photo Intelligence Agency, no enclosure  
File - Planning Directive No. 26, no enclosure  
Suspense File - 17 May, no enclosure

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